



Title: Research, Monitoring & Evaluation and Innovation Manager
Division: GRS Global
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa
Start Date: Negotiable

Grassroot Soccer:

Grassroot Soccer (GRS) is an international, adolescent health organization that uses the power of soccer to educate, inspire and mobilize young people to lead healthier lives. To date, GRS programs have provided valuable health and life skills education, with a heavy focus on HIV/AIDS prevention, for more than 1.3 million young people in nearly 50 countries around the world. GRS operates with an annual budget of \$8 million and has over 500 employees and part-time coaches worldwide.

Position Summary:

The Research, Monitoring & Evaluation (RM&E) and Innovation Manager is an experienced public health professional, responsible for:

1. Ensuring that Grassroot Soccer (GRS) "Flagship" programs in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia receive the technical support needed to implement high-quality interventions in line with their strategic plans and grant agreements;
2. Ensuring that GRS, including Flagships, Partnerships and partners are using evidence-based curricula, have access to high-quality training and program support, and can track progress through standardized M&E tools and systems;
3. Seeking out opportunities for innovative programming, partnerships and research that will advance the GRS mission, scale its impact, and build its reputation as a leading adolescent health organisation; and
4. Supporting Flagships and Global teams in guiding the organization to achieve its goal of improving adolescent health by providing data-driven support and recommendations.

Primary Responsibilities:

Managing Technical Support for GRS Flagships and Implementing Partners

- Oversee and ensure the quality and relevance of the curriculum and research support services provided to GRS Flagships and Implementing partners.
- Oversee and ensure the quality and relevance of the trainings and M&E support services provided to GRS Flagships and Implementing partners.
- Ensure that technical support services are of appropriate depth and breadth based on grant funding available.

Identification and Management of Innovative Partnerships

- Identify and cultivate relationships with strategic partners.
- Identify innovative ways to market GRS technical services and skills in order to generate income, improve organizational learning and increase impact.
- Manage contracting and engagement of staff from across Flagships, GRS Global, external Implementing Partners, and external consultants to design and deploy the most appropriate support services.

Program Support



- Manages ALL research in support of all GRS programs under the supervision of the Director of Strategy and CEO.
- Use evidence from GRS and others to provide direct guidance on Flagships and partner programming.
- Manages all M&E, Training and Curriculum projects in support of GRS Flagships programs.
- Participate in annual strategic planning sessions led by Flagships.

Thought Leadership

- Oversee GRS research strategy, ensuring the quality and relevance of internal qualitative and quantitative tools, external evaluations and research partnerships.
- Support Global Director of Strategy and Flagship Managing Directors to ensure routine review of KPIs and research to ensure strategic and tactical decisions are rooted in data and evidence.
- Ensure the positioning of GRS as a thought leader and best practice organization in adolescent health through publication and/or communication of research findings, presentation at conferences, and making direct linkages with leading researchers and policy makers.

Business Development

- Develop, write, and/or review strategic proposals, particularly related to research and innovative program design.
- Develop and manage a strategy to ensure that technical services are (nearly) fully funded through grants and/or overhead from grants.

Job Specifications and Competencies:

- Passion for and commitment to Grassroot Soccer's mission.
- A Master's Degree or higher in public health, business, social science, or a related field.
- At least 5 years of field experience working in health, education or research, preferably in Africa.
- Interest and expertise in HIV prevention, adolescent health and/or youth development.
- Action-oriented, critical thinker who challenges the status quo and insists on results.
- Excellent writing skills, including grant writing and academic manuscript composition.
- Excellent communicator who can support translation of research into action across the organization.
- Track record of launching and implementing innovative ideas and programs.
- Expertise and experience with qualitative and quantitative program evaluation methods.
- High emotional and cultural intelligence and ability to work effectively with diverse groups.
- Computer literacy, including excellent Microsoft Office skills (particularly Excel and PowerPoint).
- Applicant must be a team player capable of working independently in a fast-paced, multi-cultural environment.